

a providing server connected to said brokerage interface, the providing server operative to provide account information to the brokerage interface;

a mainframe computer operative to receive the sale or purchase of financial products and services from the client and to apply a set of predetermined business rules and calculations to ensure that the client does not incur risk in the sale or purchase of financial products and services;

a connecting server connecting the providing server to said mainframe;

a quote server connected to said providing server, the quote server operative to provide real-time quotes to the providing server for presentation to the client by way of the brokerage interface;

an advisor computer operated by a financial advisor to monitor and correct errors in the sale or purchase of financial products and services; and

a trading system connected to said mainframe computer, said trading system having access to one or more exchanges and operative to receive the sale or purchase of financial products and services from the mainframe computer and execute the trade.

6. (Amended) A system as recited by claim 1, further comprising a trade wizard helper program, the trade wizard operative to provide the client with interactive information to assist in the sale or purchase of financial products and services.

9. (Amended) A system as recited by claim 1, wherein the predetermined business rules are real-time and customizable.

10. (Amended) A system as recited by claim 1, wherein the predetermined business rules permit only cash and margin account trades.

14. (Amended) A system as recited by claim 1, further comprising a central order room operative to enable viewing of the sale or purchase of financial products and services and the execution of a correction action.

Sub B1  
15. (Amended) An on-line system for allowing a client to trade financial instruments over a computer network comprising:

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a client computer provided with a web browser for connecting to the computer network;

brokerage interface means operative to allow the client to trade financial instruments through the client computer;

providing server means, said providing server means capable of transmitting account information to and from said brokerage interface means;

a mainframe computer means operative to receive the trade of financial instruments and to apply a set of predetermined business rules and calculations to ensure that the client computer does not incur risk in the trade of financial instruments;

connecting server means capable of transmitting information between said providing server means and said mainframe means;

quote server means capable of transmitting stock market quotes and related information to said providing server means;

advisor computer means operated by a financial advisor to monitor and correct errors in the trade of financial instruments; and

trading system means connected to said mainframe computer means, said trading system means having access to a plurality of exchanges in order to facilitate trading of said financial instruments.

*A5 Sub B1* 23. (Amended) A system as recited by claim 15, further comprising a trade wizard helper program, said trade wizard helper program operative to provide the client with interactive information to assist in the trade of financial instruments.

*A6 B1* 26. (Amended) A system as recited by claim 15, wherein the predetermined business rules permit only cash and margin account trades.

34. (Amended) A method for validating on-line trades, comprising the steps of:

applying a set of applicable predetermined business rules to the on-line trade;

validating an account of a client executing the one on-line trade against a

reference database listing preselected client accounts;

checking a trade allotment of the client;

*A7* validating a symbol for the financial instrument that is the subject of the on-line trade;

obtaining a pricing quote for the financial instrument that is the subject of the on-line trade;

checking for same side and opposite side orders;

calculating a code of the on-line trade;

where the on-line trade is a sell order, verifying the client's positions for the sell order;

where the on-line trade is a buy order, verifying funds available for buy orders;

sending an alert to a financial advisor; and

assigning error/informational codes indicative of the disposition of the on-line trade.